

February 15, 2013

# Weekly Views

The Pendleton Correctional Facility would like to express appreciation to everyone who provided assistance in connection with the power outage experienced at the facility. Thanks to the teamwork and cooperation of all concerned, the facility was able to avoid a total lockdown situation and was able to operate on a restricted movement status with minimal disruption of operations considering the magnitude of the issues involved. Special thanks go to Central Office staff and especially to Kevin Orme and Mike Callahan for the outstanding assistance they provided in ensuring that necessary resources were allocated to address the situation.

Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program offenders are making dolls for Dr. James Lemmon, founder of the Riley Mother Baby Hospital of Kenyon. So far 600 of the 1000 dolls that are needed have been completed. Named in the honor of Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, the Riley Mother Baby Hospital in Kenyon can accommodate 12,000 deliveries a year. The hospital has operating rooms for Cesarean deliveries, and it has the first functioning Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in all of east Africa.

Miami Correctional Facility awarded \$4,300 through two grants funded by Aramark's Fresh Favorites sales. A committee reviews grant applications and forwards their selection to the Superintendent for approval. \$1,500 was donated to Tomorrow's Hope, a facility used to reduce the number of interviews a child victim must endure, reducing their stress and making them more comfortable during questioning. Another \$2,800 was donated to the Family Service Association Prevent Child Abuse Program, which sponsors an annual educational conference open to law enforcement, probation, social service workers, educators, hospital personnel, and the public.

In an effort with Grace College, the Westville Correctional Facility has introduced their first offender instructed education class for offenders working toward their GED. Fifteen offender students, assisted in self-study by three offender tutors, are working to advance their levels of reading, language and math. Along with their regular studies, these students will gain a sense of self-discipline, motivation and develop a sense of confidence. The offender tutors selected for this program learn important re-entry skills as well.

Assistant District Supervisor Erik Kruper, Parole Agent Kristy Jones, and Parole Agent Paul Rains partnered with staff from Lake County Community Corrections to participate in the 2013 Polar Plunge at Valparaiso University. Together they raised over \$1100 for Special Olympics Indiana. Although it was cold and windy, with the water being ice cold, a good time was had by all, and plans are already in the works to participate again next year.

The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility Choir made a surprise visit to the Noble County Library to perform at the Albion Lions Club's annual Valentine's Day party. Approximately 35 members of the Lions Club attended and were very pleased with the choir who sang a selection of five songs. Some of the songs were meant to be in theme with vision, due to the work the Lions Club does with collecting eye glasses.

Robbie Marshall has been named Chief Internal Affairs Officer at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Marshall began his career as an Officer in 1994, advanced to Sergeant in 1997 and to Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinator in 2002. Marshall has worked as an Internal Affairs Officer the past five years, focusing on STG related cases and criminal investigations. "Rob Marshall is a highly respected security threat group authority and a skilled investigator," said Superintendent Richard Brown. Congratulations Robbie!

At the invitation of Plainfield High School Head Coach Brian Woodard, Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) resident Thomas Nathan Harmon addressed the school's football, track, and other student athletes about peer pressure and the importance of making good decisions. In a passionate address, Harmon detailed the string of bad decisions that led to his decline from a straight A student athlete, to his experimenting with drugs and alcohol, to being kicked out of the military and the events that landed him in prison. Harmon has attended several speaking engagements around the state as a component of IREF's Straight Talk program.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) held a Community Advisory Board Meeting. Attending this meeting were the following, Judge Leo Burns, Dave Wegner-Cass County Community Corrections, Jill Rife-Cass County Sheriff's Department, Mayor Ted Franklin and Barb Taylor, LJCF volunteer representative. Superintendent Lori Harshbarger shared recent events from the facility as well as from the Department and Division of Youth Services.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted a Community Advisory Board meeting. Superintendent Stanley Knight welcomed new members Dr. Michael Rader, Vigo County Court Judge, Eric Bernsee and Jared Jernagen, Editor and Assistant Editor of the Banner Graphic newspaper. An Education presentation was given by Barb Auman, Director for Oakland City University, and IDOC and facility updates were presented. Lunch was prepared and served by Culinary Arts students under the instruction of Penny Clevenger.

Kojak Fuller, former Mr. Basketball of Indiana, spoke with students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. He shared his life story and difficulties he had to overcome. He explained how he continues to address those issues. Students enjoyed hearing his experiences and words of encouragement.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held their quarterly staff assembly. Several employees were recognized with quarterly awards, including: Officer of the Quarter Karen Cochran, Employee of the Quarter Jerry Hooley, Supervisor of the Quarter Ed Lessley, Contractual Employee of the Quarter Tina Collins, Extra Mile Award Ricky Rider.